

ardson's brigade, which, as we have seen, was watching Blackburn's Ford), at half past two A.M., to the vicinity of the stone bridge on the Warrenton pike.

Had General McDowell taken the precaution to have the three brigades of Tyler's division which were to act together in the battle of the next day concentrated in advance of the divisions of Hunter and Heintzelman, a good deal of confusion and delay would certainly have been avoided. The brigade of Keyes of Tyler's division bivouacked nearly two miles to the eastward of the brigades of Sherman and Schenck; it had to pass through the village of Centreville to unite with them; and, in so doing, it got in the way of the divisions of Hunter and Heintzelman, which, having also bivouacked to the east of Centreville, were likewise compelled to pass through the village to execute their orders. This delay could not have occurred had Keyes bivouacked close to the other brigades of his division on the night of the 20th. The fact, too, that the divisions of Hunter and Heintzelman entered Centreville about the same moment was a further source of embarrassment and detention. From these and perhaps other causes, there was a delay of from two to three hours in the commencement of the day's

operations,¹

McDowell's Report ; 2 W. k., 3*8. He says that "there was delay in the First Division getting out of its camp on the road." Tyler indeed isays (p. 348) that he moved at 2.30 A.M. ; but, as he adds that he arrived in front of the stone bridge, — a mardi of only three miles — at 6 o'clock, it is probable that he did not move as promptly as he daims to have done. See his testimony before the Committee on the Conduct of the War ; 2 C. W., 202